

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 remain pending. Claims 13, 25-39 have been added to secure an appropriate scope of protection to which applicants are believed entitled.

Claim 25 depends from claim 1 and recites that the light fixture is a replacement for a light source. Claim 26 depends from claim 1 and recites that the light fixture is uniquely addressable. Claim 27 depends from claim 1 and recites that the light fixture is networkable with another light fixture.

Claim 28 recites a variable light output level light fixture having a plurality of light sources and a light control connected to and controlling the light sources. Claim 29 depends from claim 28 and recites that the light sources are filaments. Claim 30 depends from claim 28 and recites that the light control controls the light sources without using a silicon-controlled rectifier. Claim 31 depends from claim 28 and recites that the light control controls the light sources without using a choke.

Claim 32 recites a variable light output level light source having a plurality of controllable filaments and a light control connected to and controlling the plurality of filaments. Claim 33 depends from claim 32 and recites that the plurality of filaments is more than two filaments. Claim 34 depends from claim 32 and recites that the plurality of filaments is 256 filaments. Claim 35 depends from claim 32 and recites that each of the filaments is individually controllable by the light control. Claim 36 depends from claim 32 and recites that the light source is a replacement for an existing light source. Claim 37 depends from claim 32 and recites that the light control controls the filaments without using a choke. Claim 38 depends from claim 32 and recites that the light control controls the filaments without using a silicon-controlled rectifier. Claim 39 depends from claim 32 and recites that the light source is connectable to a standard light source socket.

The rejection of claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite is hereby traversed. The Examiner argues that the terminology "single connectable replacement" is not very clear. Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's rejection as described below; however, Applicant has amended claim 13 in an attempt to continue prosecution.

The Examiner appears to be erroneously applying §112, second paragraph, to require that the terminology be "very clear." The essential inquiry is whether the claims set out and circumscribe a particular subject matter with a reasonable degree of clarity and particularity. See MPEP 2173.02. The claim terminology satisfies this requirement. As stated in claim 13, the light fixture of claim 1 is a single connectable replacement for an existing light source. For example, in one particular embodiment the light fixture of the present invention may replace an existing incandescent light bulb. Because the Examiner has not shown that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be apprised of the scope of the claim, the Examiner has not met his burden and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 14 depends from claim 13 and is patentable for reasons similar to those advanced with respect to claim 13 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1-11, 15-19, and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sinha et al. (U.S. Patent 6,188,181) is hereby traversed. A rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102 requires every element of the claim to be included in the reference, either directly or inherently. The Examiner has failed to identify all elements of claim 1 as anticipated by Sinha.

Applicant would like to point out that Sinha describes a lighting control system and not a light fixture as claimed by claim 1. That is, Sinha describes a system for connecting and controlling light fixtures, but not a light fixture having a light control as required by claim 1. Thus, Sinha is inapplicable to the present claimed invention and the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner argues that Sinha discloses a light fixture comprising a plurality of light loads and a light control; however, Sinha distinctly states, "[l]ighting control units are usually wall-mounted devices, each being mounted in a wallbox located in the vicinity of the light

sources or fixtures they control.” Sinha column 6, lines 54-56. Further, Sinha states that the light “control units communicate with the various LVMs through a programmable control panel circuit CP which, together with the LVMs, is housed in a power cabinet PC located remote from the controls and light sources, e.g., in an electrical closet.” Sinha column 6, lines 57-61. Thus, the light control of Sinha is “in the vicinity” of the light fixture but not a part of the fixture. Specifically, all control functionality of the lighting control system of Sinha is separate from the light fixture. Because the light fixture of Sinha does not include the light control as required by claim 1, Sinha fails to anticipate claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

For either of the above reasons, claim 1 is not anticipated by Sinha and the rejection should be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 8, the Examiner argues that Sinha discloses that the light control controls the power provided to each one of the plurality of light source sockets within the loads by individually turning on and off each one of the plurality of light source sockets within the loads. At best, Sinha in Figures 1B and 1C describes turning on and off the loads and not the (light source sockets within the loads.) Therefore, for at least this reason claim 8 is not anticipated by Sinha and the rejection should be withdrawn. *not in claim*

Claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, include further important limitations, and are patentable over Sinha for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1. The rejection of claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 should be withdrawn.

Claim 15 is patentable over Sinha for reasons similar to those advanced above with respect to claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, and 24 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 15, include further important limitations, and are patentable over Sinha for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 15. The rejection of claims 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, and 24 should be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 23 and 24, the Examiner argues that Sinha discloses sending a signal indicative of the status of the light fixture and the light source sockets and indicating same on the display with reference to Figure 1E. However, there is no description and no suggestion of sending a signal indicative of status either in Figure 1E or in the accompanying description of Sinha. The Examiner is requested to identify where in Sinha sending a signal indicative of the status of the light fixture and light source sockets and indicating the same on the display is found. For at least this reason, claims 23 and 24 are not anticipated by Sinha and the rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1-6, and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Recknagel et al. (U.S. Patent 6,031,343) is hereby traversed. A rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102 requires every element of the claim to be included in the reference, either directly or inherently. The Examiner has failed to identify all elements of claim 1 as anticipated by Recknagel.

Applicant would like to point out that Recknagel describes a lighting system and not a light fixture as claimed by claim 1. That is, Recknagel describes a system for connecting and controlling light fixtures, but not a light fixture having a light control as required by claim 1. Thus, Recknagel is inapplicable to the present claimed invention and the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner argues that Recknagel discloses a light module having a plurality of light loads and a light control. The Examiner is in error as the light module of Recknagel does not include both the light load and the light control. In Recknagel, the light module is separate from and controlled by the light control which is in turn separate from and controlled by a central controller. Applicants believe the Examiner has correctly identified the light control of Recknagel as central controller 110 with respect to the rejection of claim 3 below. Because Recknagel fails to describe a light fixture meeting the requirements of claim 1, the Examiner has not met the burden and the rejection should be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 3 and 4, the Examiner argues that Recknagel discloses that the light control is a computer, i.e., central controller 110, and a processor. Because the light control of Recknagel is not a part of the light fixture, the Examiner has failed to meet the burden and claims 3 and 4 are not anticipated by Recknagel and the rejection should be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 12, the Examiner's reference to Figure 1 and address module 120 is not understood as address module 120 fails to send signals to another address module. Address module 120₁ receives signals from bus 115, but does not send signals to another address module 120_n. As described at column 5, lines 31-33, address module 120 is optically isolated from bus 115 to reduce current drawn from bus 115. The signals from central controller 110 are received by address module 120 from bus 115, but are not transmitted to another address module. Because Recknagel fails to describe a light fixture meeting the requirements of claim 12, the Examiner has not met the burden and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, include further important limitations, and are patentable over Recknagel for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1. The rejection of claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 should be withdrawn.

The rejections of claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sinha and Recknagel are hereby traversed. A rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102 requires every element of the claim to be included in the reference, either directly or inherently. The Examiner has failed to identify all elements of claims 13 and 14 as anticipated by Sinha or Recknagel.

With respect to claim 13, the Examiner has failed to identify in Sinha or Recknagel any description or suggestion that the light fixture is a single connectable replacement for an existing light source. Because neither Sinha nor Recknagel describe a light fixture meeting the requirements of claim 13, the Examiner has not met the burden and the rejection should be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 14, the Examiner has failed to identify in Sinha or Recknagel any description or suggestion that the light fixture comprises a single screw-in replacement element. Because Sinha and Recknagel fail to describe a light fixture meeting the requirements of claim 14, the Examiner has not met the burden and the rejection should be withdrawn.

For at least the above reasons and for the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1 from which claims 13 and 14 depend, claims 13 and 14 are patentable over Sinha and Recknagel and the rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 7 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sinha is hereby traversed. For at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claims 1 and 15 from which claims 7 and 20 depend, claims 7 and 20 are not rendered obvious by Sinha and the rejection should be withdrawn. The Examiner has failed to identify any motivation or suggestion in the reference teaching, suggesting, or describing the asserted modification. The Examiner appears to have improperly applied hindsight reasoning based on the present invention to make the asserted modification. The Examiner has failed to identify why the modification would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art or why a person of ordinary skill would be motivated to make the modification. The Examiner is referred to page 13, last sentence carrying over to page 14, first two lines, for a description of the basis for using 256 light source sockets. For at least the above reasons, the rejection of claims 7 and 20 should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Recknagel is hereby traversed. For at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1 from which claim 7 depends, claim 7 is not rendered obvious by Recknagel and the rejection should be withdrawn. The Examiner has failed to identify any motivation or suggestion in the reference teaching, suggesting, or describing the asserted modification. The Examiner appears to have improperly applied hindsight reasoning based on the present invention to make the asserted modification. The Examiner has failed to identify why the modification would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art or why a person of ordinary skill would be motivated to make

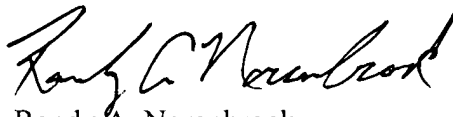
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the modification. The Examiner is referred to page 13, last sentence carrying over to page 14, first two lines, for a description of the basis for using 256 light source sockets. For at least the above reasons, the rejection of claims 7 should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy A. Noranbrock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Randy" and last name "Noranbrock" clearly distinguishable.

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MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

13. The fixture as claimed in claim 1, wherein said light fixture is [a single] an individual connectable replacement for an existing light source.